

combined marketing and general-management experience, and serves large brands and entrepreneurial endeavors. Lisa's company takes on pro-bono projects through Luminations' "Charity of Choice" program.

She co-chairs the Hebrew Education Committee at Congregation Kehilat Shalom in Hillsborough and volunteers with the Central Jersey MS Society.

I am pleased to congratulate Lisa Kent for her outstanding efforts and share her good work with my colleagues in the United States Congress and the American people.

IN RECOGNITION OF GENE MARIE
O'CONNELL

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, for more than a decade, Gene Marie O'Connell has faithfully served the city we share as CEO of San Francisco General Hospital, the city's primary safety-net hospital. Under her skilled and passionate leadership, San Francisco General achieved designation as a level one trauma center, the only one of its kind serving San Francisco and northern San Mateo County. Additionally, the hospital received the notable distinction of "certified stroke center" and has been deemed "baby friendly" by the World Health Organization—the only health care facility in the Bay Area with that designation.

Gene Marie's own accomplishments are nearly as impressive as those of the hospital she serves so well. In 2007 she was named chair of the National Association of Public Hospitals and Health Systems, an organization that represents more than 100 health systems nationwide. Ever cognizant of the needs of public hospitals and those they serve, Gene Marie made it a priority for the organization to improve the quality of patient care and to secure adequate Medicare and Medicaid funding.

Gene Marie has further devoted her time and talents to the medical field as a board member of the National Public Health & Hospital Institute, the branch that handles the national association's research initiatives. Her achievements attest to her steadfast devotion to providing exceptional medical care and treatment while seeking solutions to the field's most pressing issues.

As we both know, Madam Speaker, healthcare is an ever-changing arena. Despite this, Gene Marie's tireless dedication to the field and her genuine desire to positively impact the lives of those in need has remained constant. Such attributes attest to the magnitude of her influence on patients, co-workers, and members of the medical community who have benefited from her devoted care and faithful service.

Bolstering a personal philosophy that emphasizes the importance of compassion and support, Gene Marie has proved indispensable in all the positions she has held. Prior to her post as CEO of San Francisco General, she served as the hospital's chief operating officer, the senior associate administrator for clinical services, the director of emergency services, and the director of staff development, research, quality assurance, and discharge plan-

ning. The incredible breadth of her experience in the medical field also includes time spent as the director of patient care services at the Department of Public Health's Community Health Network.

Madam Speaker, the astounding accomplishments of Gene Marie O'Connell make us all proud. Through her leadership, San Francisco General has risen to the top of public hospitals and her initiatives guarantee that it will continue to be an innovative and compassionate member of our community. She has left an indelible mark on the hospital and all those it serves and her efforts ensure its persistent growth and prominence. Our community owes her a debt of gratitude and special thanks go to her supportive husband, Joel Hurwitz, and children, Tanya and Thorin, for sharing this very special woman with all of us.

SUPPORTING THE EMPLOYEE
FREE CHOICE ACT OF 2009

HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. STARK. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, which my good friend GEORGE MILLER has reintroduced today.

Passage of the Employee Free Choice Act is long overdue. Middle-class Americans are the backbone of the economy, and yet they took a back seat to corporate giants over the past eight years. The previous Administration decided to protect big business at the expense of their employees, and corporate profits ballooned while real worker wages stagnated or even declined.

Right now, employers can use coercive tactics in the run-up to an employer-forced election even when a majority of workers want to form a union, they can stall indefinitely during contract negotiations, and they can engage in illegal labor practices and receive only a slap on the wrist. American workers deserve better.

The Employee Free Choice Act levels the playing field between employees and employers by allowing workers to decide whether to hold a NLRB election or instead show that a majority of workers support unionization. The Act prevents employers from stonewalling and makes it easier for employees to reach a collective bargaining agreement. Finally, the Employee Free Choice Act stiffens penalties against employers who violate the law.

The current economic recession makes passage of the Employee Free Choice Act even more important. Workers with higher wages will stimulate the economy, spur investment, and get America back on the road to prosperity. That's why I'm proud to be a co-sponsor of the Employee Free Choice Act of 2009, and why I urge all of my colleagues to support this vital piece of legislation. It's time to recognize and support American workers instead of leaving them behind.

IN SUPPORT OF SMALL,
MINORITY-OWNED BANKS

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, March 10, 2009

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Congressman AL GREEN and myself, I wish to submit copies of letters sent by the Greenlining Institute of Berkeley, California, and by the National Bankers Association, which highlight the need for small banks, including minority owned banks that work with the inner city communities, to receive some of the federal Troubled Asset Relief Program (TARP) monies that are being distributed largely to the national financial institutions. While AIG, Citibank, JPMorganChase and others are receiving billions of dollars in aid, the opportunity to save a minority bank, OneUnited, with twelve million dollars is not only right and justified, it is essential. It is these small banks, typified by OneUnited that are vital to the communities we represent.

We commend the actions taken by Representative FRANK in urging the Department of the Treasury to notice and come to the aid of OneUnited. It is not a coincidence that so much attention has been devoted to what is a relatively small amount of money in the context of the hundreds of billions of dollars that have been distributed. OneUnited has been a profitable bank for every quarter for the last ten years, but had its capital wiped out when Fannie and Freddie preferred shares were deemed valueless due to the takeover of Fannie and Freddie by the Federal government. The preferred stock of Fannie and Freddie were always highly recommended investments and, in the case of OneUnited, a Community Development Finance Institution, these investments fit the mission of the bank. Before any TARP money was invested, OneUnited first received an investment of \$17 million dollars of additional private capital. This bank, like others, is trying to cope in this new financial world. We see every reason that minority banks are worthy of federal assistance and should be treated with the same care that the larger, and I might add, more irresponsible and careless banks have been treated by the Federal Government.

Again, Madam Speaker, Congressman GREEN and I applaud the actions taken by our colleague, Chairman FRANK in support of OneUnited a small minority owned bank. We encourage the Treasury Department and the federal financial regulators to treat all stressed financial institutions fairly regarding usage of the TARP funds during this very difficult financial situation.

THE GREENLINING INSTITUTE,
Berkeley, CA, January 26, 2009.

One united and creating equal opportunities for minority-owned banks under TARP.

Congressman BARNEY FRANK,
Rayburn H.O.B.,
Washington, DC.

DEAR BARNEY, Greenlining Institute met with the Federal Reserve, OCC and FDIC on November 17th and 18th to, in part, formally complain that none of the fifty-two Latino or African American-owned banks, as of early November, had received any bailout funds. We contended that many were better equipped than Citigroup, for example, to assist Main St. borrowers but lack the clout to advance their interests.